

other people, although it expresses such suspicion, is nevertheless a great advance upon the earlier attitude of the young child, for it means that the child has come to the point where he *dares* to look at what other people really are like. He dares now to note and to measure their real thoughts and real hostilities, because he has already had some degree of real proof that they are not altogether hostile. The importance of this is seen very clearly in those individuals who lack it, those who have never come to be able to gaze steadily at the real behaviour and real character of other people, but have had to construct romantic and idealised figures of parents and family and friends, as people who have, no hostility, who are completely kind and beneficent. Such individuals always on the surface assume that other people act from the best possible motives. They dare not acknowledge the reality of greed or meanness or hate in others, because, for them, any signs of this at once open up the whole world of the child's phantasy of dangerous destructive parents or rivals. In such cases there have, of course, always been special historical reasons for their inability to learn what people are really like. They serve, however, to throw into relief this element in the normal development of the majority of children in the latency period, who do come to be able to look with more or less open eyes at the real behaviour and real characteristics of the people around them.

This thread in the child's development contributes greatly to that possibility of reciprocal social understanding and reciprocal behaviour which ripens in the latency period. It is only as and when the child becomes less afraid of other* people, as and when he can bear to see them more as they

really are, because his vision is less dominated by inner phantasy, that he can take their point of view as well as his own. He can become interested in their point of view when he has to some extent worked through his suspicions, and actually found other people in large part trustworthy; that is to say, when his positive identifications with them have gained a certain measure of stability.

I cannot close this theoretical study without drawing attention to the fact that the account I have given, whether of the sexual or the social aspects of development or of the way in which these affect each other, is but partial and fragmentary.